Claims

1.   A communications system comprising of an information processing apparatus and an information management apparatus managing contents, in which:

5   said information processing apparatus
                includes:

                    playing means playing content provided from said information management apparatus via a network;

                    first request means requesting said
10   information management apparatus to store a time stamp and predetermined identification information in association when it is instructed, while said content is played by said playing means, that the time stamp representing the playing position at that moment be
15   stored; and

                    second request means notifying said information management apparatus of said identification information and requesting the playing of said content from the position represented by said time stamp, and
20   is characterized in that:

                    said playing means plays said content from said position represented by said time stamp provided from said information management apparatus in accordance with the request by said second request means,
25   and

          said information management apparatus
                includes:

                    providing means providing said content to said information processing apparatus via said
30   network; and

                    storing means storing said time stamp

and said identification information in association in accordance with the request from said information processing apparatus, and

　　　　is characterized in that:

5　　　　　　　said providing means provides said content from the position represented by said time stamp when, from said information processing apparatus, said identification information is notified and the playing of said content from the position represented by said time

10　stamp stored by said storing means is requested.

2.　　A communications method in a communication system comprising of an information processing apparatus and an information management apparatus managing contents, in

15　which:

　　an information processing method of said information processing apparatus

　　　　comprises:

　　　　　a playing step of playing content

20　provided from said information management apparatus via a network;

　　　　　a first request step of requesting said information management apparatus to store a time stamp and predetermined identification information in

25　association when it is instructed, while said content is played by the process of said playing step, that the time stamp representing the playing position at that moment be stored; and

　　　　　a second request step of notifying said

30　information management apparatus of said identification information and requesting the playing of said content

from the position represented by said time stamp, and

    is characterized in that:

        said content from the position

represented by said time stamp provided from said

5   information management apparatus in accordance with the

request by the process of said second request step is

played by the process of said playing step, and

    an information management method of said

information management apparatus

10   comprises:

        a providing step of providing said

content to said information processing apparatus via said

network; and

        a storing step of storing a time stamp

15   and identification information in association in

accordance with the request from said information

processing apparatus, and

    is characterized in that:

        said content is provided by the process

20   of said providing step from a position represented by

said time stamp when, from said information processing

apparatus, said identification information is notified

and the playing of said content from the position

represented by said time stamp stored by the process of

25   said storing step is requested.

3.   An information processing apparatus,

    characterized by having:

        playing means playing content provided from

30   an information management apparatus managing said content

via a network;

first request means requesting said
information management apparatus to store a time stamp
and predetermined identification information in
association when it is instructed, while said content is
5   played by said playing means, that said time stamp
representing a playing position at that moment be stored;
and

second request means notifying said
information management apparatus of said identification
10   information and requesting the playing of said content
from the position represented by said time stamp, and
characterized in that:

said playing means plays said content from
said position represented by said time stamp provided
15   from said information management apparatus in accordance
with the request by said second request means.

4.   The information processing apparatus as claimed in
Claim 3, characterized in that:
20   in a case where storage of said time stamp is
instructed when it is instructed that the playing of said
content be stopped, said first request means may request
the information management apparatus to stop providing
said content as well as to store said time stamp.
25

5.   The information processing apparatus as claimed in
Claim 3, characterized in that:
said identification information is information
allotted to each user.
30

6.   The information processing apparatus as claimed in

Claim 3,

characterized by further having third request means requesting a viewing status information management apparatus that manages viewing status information to

5   store viewing status information representing a viewing status of said content, and

characterized in that said second request means requests the playing of said content from the position represented by said time stamp in accordance with said

10   viewing status represented by said viewing status information.

7.   An information processing method, characterized by including:

15   a playing step of playing content provided from said information management apparatus via a network;

a first request step of requesting said information management apparatus to store a time stamp and predetermined identification information in

20   association when it is instructed, while said content is played by the process of said playing step, that the time stamp representing the playing position at that moment be stored; and

a second request step of notifying said

25   information management apparatus of said identification information and requesting the playing of said content from the position represented by said time stamp, and characterized in that:

said content from the position represented by

30   said time stamp provided from said information management apparatus in accordance with the request by the process

of said second request step is played by the process of said playing step.

8.   A recording medium having recorded therein a
computer readable program, said program:
        characterized by including:
                a playing step of playing content provided
from said information management apparatus via a network;
                a first request step of requesting said
information management apparatus to store a time stamp
and predetermined identification information in
association when it is instructed, while said content is
played by the process of said playing step, that the time
stamp representing the playing position at that moment be
stored; and
                a second request step of notifying said
information management apparatus of said identification
information and requesting the playing of said content
from the position represented by said time stamp, and
        characterized in that:
                said content from the position represented by
said time stamp provided from said information management
apparatus in accordance with the request by the process
of said second request step is played by the process of
said playing step.

9.   A program to be executed by a computer,
        characterized by including:
                a playing step of playing content provided
from said information management apparatus via a network;
                a first request step of requesting said

information management apparatus to store a time stamp
and predetermined identification information in
association when it is instructed, while said content is
played by the process of said playing step, that the time
5   stamp representing the playing position at that moment be
stored; and

a second request step of notifying said
information management apparatus of said identification
information and requesting the playing of said content
10 from the position represented by said time stamp, and
characterized in that:

said content from the position represented by
said time stamp provided from said information management
apparatus in accordance with the request by the process
15 of said second request step is played by the process of
said playing step.

10.   An information management apparatus,
characterized by including:
20   providing means providing via a network
predetermined content to an information processing
apparatus that is connected via said network; and
storing means storing a time stamp, which
represents a playing position for said content provided
25 by said providing means, and predetermined identification
information in association in accordance with a request
from said information processing apparatus, and
characterized in that:
said providing means provides said content
30 from the position represented by said time stamp when,
from said information processing apparatus, said

identification information is notified and the playing of said content from the position represented by said time stamp stored by said storing means is requested.

5   11.   The information management apparatus as claimed in Claim 10,

characterized by further including viewing status information storing means storing viewing status information, which represents a viewing status of said

10   content, in accordance with a request from said information processing apparatus, and

characterized in that, in a case where said viewing status represented by said viewing status information stored by said viewing status information storing means

15   indicates that said content has not been played to the end, said providing means provides said content from the position represented by said time stamp.

12.   An information management method,

20   characterized by including:

a providing step of providing via a network predetermined content to an information processing apparatus that is connected via the network, and

a storing step of storing a time stamp, which

25   represents a playing position for said content provided by the process of said providing step, and predetermined identification information in association in accordance with a request from said information processing apparatus, and

30   characterized in that:

said content is provided by the process of

said providing step from a position represented by said
time stamp when, from said information processing
apparatus, said identification information is notified
and the playing of said content from the position

5   represented by said time stamp stored by the process of
said storing step is requested.

13.   A recording medium having recorded therein a
computer readable program,

10   characterized by including:
          a providing step of providing via a network
predetermined content to an information processing
apparatus that is connected via the network; and
          a storing step of storing a time stamp, which

15   represents a playing position for said content provided
by the process of said providing step, and predetermined
identification information in association in accordance
with a request from said information processing apparatus,
and

20   characterized in that:
          said content is provided by the process of
said providing step from a position represented by said
time stamp when, from said information processing
apparatus, said identification information is notified

25   and the playing of said content from the position
represented by said time stamp stored by the process of
said storing step is requested.

14.   A program to be executed by a computer,

30   characterized by including:
          a providing step of providing via a network

predetermined content to an information processing apparatus that is connected via the network; and

a storing step of storing a time stamp, which represents a playing position for said content provided

5   by the process of said providing step, and predetermined identification information in association in accordance with a request from said information processing apparatus, and

characterized in that:

10   said content is provided by the process of said providing step from a position represented by said time stamp when, from said information processing apparatus, said identification information is notified and the playing of said content from the position

15   represented by said time stamp stored by the process of said storing step is requested.